

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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SUBJECT: PANAMANIAN MEDIA TONE IT DOWN

REF: A.PANAMA 6535 B. PANAMA 6555

1. PANAMANIAN MEDIA TODAY SEEM TO HAVE CUT ANTI-AMERICAN
PROPAGANDA BACK CLOSE TO PRE-SEPTEMBER 17 LEVELS.

2. ESTRELLA AND THE STAR AND HERALD GIVE FRONT-PAGE PLAY TO
THE U.S. NOTE REJECTING THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT'S PROTEST.
BOTH PAPERS GIVE THE STORY UPBEAT TREATMENT BY EMPHASIZING
THAT PART OF THE NOTE WHICH SAID THAT THE U.S. "CONTINUES TO
SEEK AN EQUITABLE SOLUTION TO THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEM BETWEEN
OUR COUNTRIES THROUGH THE NEGOTIATION OF A NEW PANAMA CANAL
TREATY". BOTH CARRY THE FULL TEXT, WHICH WAS RELEASED BY
THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. LEFTIST MATUTINO ALSO CARRIES THE
TEXT OF THE NOTE ON THE FRONT PAGE (WITH A JUMP TO AN
INSIDE PAGE), UNDER THE HEADLINE "AMBASSADOR WILLIAM JORDEN
ALLEGES INNOCENCE OF THE U.S. IN DISTURBANCES".

CRITICA IS THE ONLY MORNING PAPER NOT TO CARRY
THE FULL TEXT, THOUGH IT ALSO QUOTES EXTENSIVELY FROM
THE AMBASSADOR'S NOTE. CHARACTERISTICALLY, THE HEADLINE
SAYS: "AMBASSADOR JORDEN DEFENDS ZONIANS", AND

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THE LEAD PARAGRAPH READS:

"THE AMBASSADOR OF THE U.S., WILLIAM JORDEN, IN A CLARIFYING NOTE TO PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AQUILINO BOYD, ASSERTS THAT NONE OF THE PERSONS POINTED OUT BY NATIONAL AUTHORITIES AS MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN ARMY AND OF THE CIA, WHO WERE PROMOTING STREET DISORDERS IN PANAMA CITY, WAS AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO PARTICIPATE IN SAID DISTURBANCES."

3. THERE IS IN THE MORNING PAPERS NO COMMENT, EITHER BY COLUMNISTS OR IN EDITORIALS, ON THE ALLEGED U.S. GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE IN PANAMA. A CRITICAL EDITORIAL, HOWEVER, WARNS AGAINST SUBVERSIVES AND "THEIR COLONIALIST TENTACLES WHICH ACT IN THE CANAL ZONE", AND A CRITICAL GOSSIP COLUMNIST SAYS FIVE ZONIAN DISGUISED AS STUDENTS WERE IN THE AREA OF THE SEPTEMBER 20 DISTURBANCES.

4. TV CHANNEL 4 NEWS MONDAY NIGHT QUOTED EXTENSIVELY FROM THE AMBASSADOR'S NOTE AND EDITORIALY EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE CANAL NEGOTIATIONS COULD NOW GO FORWARD. EVEN STATE-OWNED RADIO LIBERTAD, THE MOST OUTRAGEOUS YANKEE BAITER IN TOWN, HAS REDUCED ITS OUTPUT TO ITS CHRONIC SEIZURES OF FLATULENCE.

5. ESTRELLA CARRIES AN INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BOYD BY AP CORRESPONDENT TOM WELLS. BOYD IS QUOTED AS URGING THE U.S. NOT TO DESTABILIZE THE TORRIJOS GOVERNMENT. AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE ARTICLE ALSO STATES:

"AFTER ALL THE EXPERIENCES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DIRTY TRICKS OF THE CIA YOU CAN'T BE SURPRISED OR ALARMED BY WHAT IS HAPPENING IN PANAMA, BOYD SAID IN YESTERDAY'S INTERVIEW.

"ASKED IF HE WAS ACCUSING THE U.S. OF TRYING TO UNDERMINE THE TORRIJOS GOVERNMENT, BOYD ANSWERED:

"WE CANNOT SAY WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS THAT WAY.
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WE HAVE NO PROOF. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE. MY PERSONAL EVALUATION IS THAT IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO PROVE THAT THOSE PERSONS RECEIVED DIRECT ORDERS FROM THE NORTH AMERICAN MILITARY IN WASHINGTON.

"BOY SAID THAT THERE IS IMPATIENCE IN PANAMA OVER THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE U.S. FOR A NEW CANAL TREATY TO REPLACE THE ONE SIGNED IN 1903....

"IF FORD IS DEFEATED IN THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS AND
TELLS US THAT WE SHOULD SEEK A SOLUTION THROUGH
MR. CARTER, CARTER COULD TELL US THAT HE IS ORGANIZING
HIS ADMINISTRATION AND TELL US TO RETURN IN 1977, BOYD
SAID.

"HE ADDED, BUT THE QUESTION IS, ARE THE PANAMANIAN
DISPOSED TO WAIT?"
JORDEN

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